

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Beginning on page 6, please amend Paragraphs [0017] and [0018] as follows:

[0017] At step 330, automatic blood pressure monitoring of the patient is performed using a NIBP cuff 120 and an automatic NIBP monitor 110, both of which are of a known type. The automatic operation of NIBP monitor 110 involves controller 140, which receives an operator signal to begin the blood pressure monitoring process, inflates the blood pressure cuff 120 to a desired pressure and then monitors the patient's blood pressure. At the conclusion of the blood pressure monitoring process, an electronic dump valve 111 internal to NIBP monitor 110 may be opened to release the pressure of blood pressure cuff 120 on the patient. However, to facilitate rapid deflation of blood pressure cuff 120, step 340 is applied.

[0018] At step 340, pneumatic deflation valve 130 is actuated, as discussed above, to rapidly deflated blood pressure cuff 120, thereby facilitating a shorter blood pressure monitoring procedure. The use of pneumatic deflation valve 130 is quicker and less expensive than typical electronic dump valves 111, and avoids the need for an operator to separate monitor or cuff hoses 150, 160 from monitor or cuff ports 180, 190 to facilitate rapid deflation of blood pressure cuff 120.